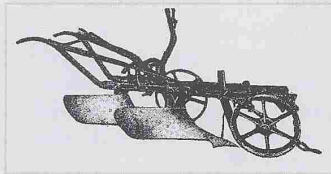


## Farming Archive Project

The late Neil McConnach took a great interest in the BCT Local History Archive and suggested to the Archivist the idea of recording farming in Birse parish. Several informal discussions were held with him to look at what might be included in a project.

The Board of Trustees have agreed that they would like to remember Neil's work for BCT, his long association with farming in the parish and his interest in local history by taking forward his idea by setting up a Farming Archive Project in his memory. Work is currently underway to try to find possible sources of funding for the work which will be done over several years with a number of individual subjects. In due course, BCT would hope to publish the work in a book which will also acknowledge all who have contributed to the project. It is intended that, eventually, the material gathered will be made available in digital form to be accessible through the Trust's website.



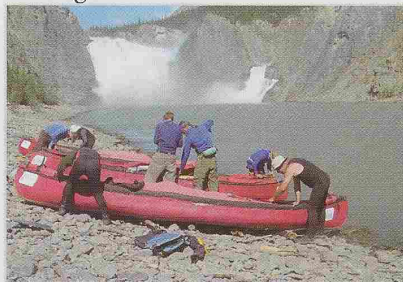
You could help make this project a most worthwhile historical record of farming in Birse if you have any old farming photographs, documents, magazine or papers such as receipts which you could donate or lend for scanning. If you have old

implements, tools or parts of machinery lying around would you consider giving permission for these to be photographed? Perhaps you would like to share your memories of being brought up on a local farm, how things used to be done and what life was like in years past? Even if it is successful in its applications(s) for grant funding, BCT will have to independently raise some of the money required to fund the project work. If you feel you would like to remember Neil McConnach by supporting the project financially, donations to the Farming Archive Project would be very much appreciated.

Enquiries to: Eileen Bailey, Archivist, at Birse Community Trust office (tel: 01330 850200) or e-mail to [ebailey.archivist@btinternet.com](mailto:ebailey.archivist@btinternet.com)

## Sponsored Canoe Trip

The Board of Trustees have approved the suggestion that the £600 donation received from sponsorship of Rod Begbie's expedition in Canada in the summer of 2006 should be used for something tangible and for the long-term benefit of the community. In the Old School, the room which is currently used as BCT's office is to be converted into a Presentations Room. This will be used for talks and presentations about the Trust's historic sites and projects. It will also become a display area for material from the Local History Archive making the contents of the archive more accessible to the public.



© Rod Begbie (extreme right) at Virginia Falls

Displays will be changed regularly. The Presentations Room will be particularly useful for school projects & visiting groups. Those who are disabled or less mobile will, eventually, be able to have a virtual tour of sites such the Mills or Souter's Shop where access would otherwise be very difficult for them.

## Trustees Report - Spring 2007

This has been a fairly hectic year for your Trustees, whilst making a determined effort to consolidate our financial status; we lost a valued Project Manager, but had the good fortune to appoint some enthusiastic newcomers.

In addition, just to keep us on our toes, we had to grapple with the requirements of a new regulatory regime known as - 'The Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005'. Still, nobody said being a trustee would be easy!

As you can see elsewhere in this edition of Update, the purchase of Slewdrum was a significant achievement, culminating in an official handover to our Chairman on behalf of the members. A proud moment indeed!

So, here we are again, with another eventful year past and preparations for our 2007 AGM nearing completion. It is with pride that we report on our activities and financial results for the year end in our Annual Report for 2006.

We continue to make progress in the delivery of our vision, 'to promote the common good of the inhabitants of Birse parish and deliver wider public benefits'. There is, however, still much to do in pursuing our objectives, not least of which will be our ability to set up and operate a Trading Company to manage Slewdrum.

We are also developing the 4th edition of a new Strategic Plan for 2007 to 2011. This will outline the challenges we are undertaking, including both medium and long-term objectives for a number of current and envisaged projects.

While we are optimistic about the future, we recognise the need to balance the pressure of limited finances with the achievement of our planned objectives.

As ever, we remain indebted to our funders, supporters and volunteers who continue to work tirelessly to ensure we achieve our day to day goals.

Finally, we would like to draw your attention to two excellent BCT publications, they are the 'Birse War Memorial' which remembers the men of Birse parish who served in World Wars 1 and 11; and 'The Geology and Geomorphology of Birse' by Martin Johnson.

The Trustees